

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for determining ~~an impact~~ a synergetic effect of a multicomponent natural product mixture on a biological profile of a disease within a group of living systems comprising the steps of:
  - (a) determining a biological profile of the disease by comparing the biological profile of a group of living systems with symptoms of the disease with the biological profile of a reference group of living systems, using a multivariate analysis;
  - (b) determining ~~an impact~~ said effect of a series of samples of the multicomponent mixture on the biological profile of the disease, in which samples the concentrations of one or more natural components or groups of natural components differ, using a multivariate analysis;
  - (c) determining the composition of the samples of the multicomponent mixture that have shown in step (b) ~~a desired impact~~ said effect on the biological profile of the disease, using a multivariate analysis;
  - (d) identifying within the compositions as determined in step (c) the effective natural components or groups of natural components and their respective concentrations required for having ~~the desired impact~~ said effect on the biological profile of the disease, using a multivariate analysis.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, after step (d), the steps of

(e) preparing a set of multicomponent natural product mixtures on the basis of the information obtained in step (d), which mixtures are expected to display ~~the desired impact~~ said effect on the biological profile of the disease, and

(f) determining ~~the impact~~ said effect on the biological profile of the disease from the set of multicomponent mixtures as prepared in step (e), using multivariate analysis.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 2, further comprising, after step (e), the step of:

(g) selecting one or more multicomponent mixtures from the set of multicomponent mixtures as prepared in step (e) wherein the selected multicomponent mixtures display a ~~desired and improved impact~~ said effect on the biological profile of the disease.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) , determining a biological profile of the disease is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a spectrometric technique, an electromigration-based technique, a chromatographic technique and a combination thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b), determining ~~an impact~~ said effect of a series of samples of the multicomponent mixture on the biological profile of the disease is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a a

spectrometric technique, an electromigration-based technique, a chromatographic technique and a combination thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (c) , determining the composition of the samples of the multicomponent mixture is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a spectrometric technique, an electromigration-based technique, a chromatographic technique and a combination thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (d) identifying within the compositions as determined in step (c) the effective natural components or groups of natural components and their respective concentrations required for having ~~the desired~~ impact said effect on the biological profile of the disease is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a spectrometric technique, an electromigration-based technique a chromatographic technique and a combination thereof.
8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 2, wherein in step (f), determining ~~the~~ impact said effect on the biological profile of the disease from the set of multicomponent mixtures as prepared in step (e) is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a spectrometric technique, an electromigration-based technique, a chromatographic technique and a combination thereof.
9. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 2, wherein said method is performed two or more spectrometric techniques.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 9, wherein said method is performed by a nuclear magnetic resonance technique and a mass spectrometry technique.
11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the biological profile includes one or more metabolic, genetic and/or proteomic profiles.
12. (Original) Method according to claim 11, wherein the biological profile includes the metabolic, genetic and proteomic profiles.
13. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the multicomponent mixture comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a nutraceutical product, a functional food product, a herbal medicinal product, a biofluid, an extract of a biofluid and a combination thereof.
14. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined from at least one type of body fluid.
15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined from at least one type of tissue.
16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined from at least two different types of body fluid.
17. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined using one or more of the following biomarkers; genes, transcripts, proteins, metabolites and ~~(trace)~~ trace elements.

18. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the samples of the multicomponent mixture in step (c) comprises at least 2 samples.
19. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein the samples of the multicomponent mixture in step (c) ~~ranges from~~ comprises 5-100 samples.
20. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the multicomponent natural product mixture is a herbal mixture.
21. (Withdrawn) Method for preparing a natural product-based medicament wherein the effective natural components or groups of natural components as identified in step (d) as defined in claim 1 is combined in the respective concentrations required for having a desired impact on the biological profile of the disease.
22. (Withdrawn) Use of a multivariate mixture as prepared in step (e) as defined in claim 2 or as selected in step (g) as defined above for preparing a natural product-based medicament.
23. (Withdrawn) Use of a multivariate mixture as prepared in step (e) as defined in claim 2 or as selected in step (g) as defined above in a food application.
24. (Withdrawn) Medicament comprising a multicomponent mixture as prepared in step (e) as defined in claim 2 or as selected in step (g) as defined above.
25. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of at least one natural component or group of natural components of the mixture is adjusted to ensure

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that the at least one natural component or group of natural components of the mixture has  
~~the desired impact~~ said effect on the biological profile of the disease.

26. (Withdrawn) Use of the method according to claim 1, for setting up breeding programs,  
Good Agriculture/Manufacture Practice (GAP/GMP) protocols and post- harvesting  
processing of natural products for use in natural product-based medicines.